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## 1 CIRCUIT COURT

## 2 FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 BARRY C. HOBSON,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v. Case No.

7 LOCAL 689, AMALGAMATE TRANSIT CAL21-14493

8 UNION, AFL-CIO,

9 Defendant.  
10 \_\_\_\_\_

## 11 DEPOSITION OF

12 TONYA JACKSON

13 DATE: Monday, May 1, 2023

14 TIME: 10:26 a.m.

15 LOCATION: Remote Proceeding

16 20 South Charles Street, Suite 901

17 Baltimore, MD 21201

18 REPORTED BY: Richard Livengood, Notary Public

19 JOB NO.: 5820913



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1 A I've never seen him a day in my life.	1 up here so.	
2 Q Prior to being hired.	2 Q You can hold onto that.	
3 A Prior to being hired.	3 A Okay.	
4 Q Okay. When you were hired at THW, how often	4 Q Can I see that pen?	
5 would you interact with Mr. Jackson?	5 A Yes.	
6 A Mr. Jackson and I interacted a lot -- often,	6 MR. STAFFORD: So let the record	
7 very often. I would say we interacted maybe two to	7 reflect, Ms. Jackson has indicated that the CFO is --	
8 three times a week.	8 she's drawn a circle around that person's name and put	
9 Q And would that be in person or?	9 CFO next to it -- next to her.	
10 A It would be in person. It would be over the	10 BY MR. STAFFORD:	
11 phone. It would just be various interactions.	11 Q Can you give me her name?	
12 Q Okay. You mentioned that you raised	12 A Crystal Michelle Long.	
13 concerns about what was going on at THW. Did any of	13 Q Can you spell that?	
14 those concerns involve Mr. Barry Hobson?	14 A C-R-Y-S-T-A-L, M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E, Long,	
15 A Yes, they did.	15 L-O-N-G.	
16 Q Okay. Can you tell me when is the first	16 Q Okay. Sorry, keep going. I'm sorry.	
17 time you raised concerns regarding what you saw at THW	17 A So Crystal Michelle Long and myself as well	
18 as it relates to Mr. Hobson?	18 as Tonya Billups, who is a retired employee, we went	
19 A The first time is when -- so in March, I can	19 to meet with him because we felt that there was some	
20 tell you the exact date, March 3rd. March 3rd -- it	20 financial issues going on that we were unaware of, and	
21 may be March 7th, but no it's actually March 2nd.	21 we wanted them to come in and do a forensic audit.	
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1 March 2nd --	1 So when we asked them to come in and do a	
2 Q Of what year?	2 forensic audit on that March 2nd, I think that's the	
3 A Of 2022.	3 date -- March 2nd.	
4 Q Okay.	4 The next day on March 3rd, we -- somehow the	
5 A The chief financial officer and I -- we went	5 contract was signed with the previous agency. And so	
6 to meet with him because we felt that some things was	6 -- and then on March 4th, Barry Hopkins [sic], he did	
7 going on financially. Chief financial officer Crystal	7 a post on Facebook -- a group. And so I was unaware	
8 Long and myself --	8 of how this guy knew me. Now, he had done a post	
9 Q Let me do this. I'm going to show you what	9 prior when I first started about, you know, being	
10 I'm marking as Exhibit 2, and this way we can sort of	10 hired, about you know my salary and I just didn't know	
11 all be on the same page.	11 what was going on in my office.	
12 (Exhibit 2 was marked for	12 And so prior to me coming, we had an	
13 identification.)	13 executive director or acting as executive director, I	
14 A Okay.	14 don't know what she was. I know at one point the	
15 Q Exhibit 2 is a printout of the THW website.	15 board said she was acting executive director. At one	
16 Can you circle for me the CFO that you're referencing?	16 point, they said she was not. I really don't know	
17 A Okay.	17 what her role was, but I know when I started -- her	
18 Q And then can you write next to her CFO?	18 name was Sonya Long. When I started -- Sonya Long. I	
19 A Okay.	19 met her one day and she was out. She went out on	
20 Q And draw a line to it, if you don't mind?	20 FMLA.	
21 A Okay. And I don't think the other person is	21 [REDACTED] And so a lot of my staff, not a lot of my	

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 staff, certain staff members they would relay      2 everything that was happening in the office because of      3 Barry and the blog followers. So they instilled this      4 fear in us that, you know, Barry and certain people      5 were doing certain things and it happened -- the      6 coincidence happened after we went to go see an      7 auditor.</p> <p>8 And so you know, because we're like, okay,      9 what are they trying to stop us from uncovering      10 because of everything that was going on. And so at      11 that time, everything that would happen, they were      12 sort of relaying back to Barry or say you know Barry      13 may have had something to do with it or somebody in      14 our office was friends with Barry or they was doing it      15 on his behalf.</p> <p>16 So me not knowing Barry, you know, I'm      17 new -- I've been in so many professional environments,      18 I never encountered anything of such. I didn't know      19 what to think of it.</p> <p>20 So when they would just say everything was      21 about Barry or the lady Sonya, Crystal made -- she</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 That Barry has a condition that Sonya tried      2 to get him approved for and Sonya signed off on the      3 records. And I said stop what you're doing. Do you      4 mean to tell me that you guys went into his records?      5 I said with everything that's going on, I hope and      6 pray, and those were my words exactly, that you did      7 not access this man's records. And I said you're      8 setting us up for a case. I said I'm a nurse first.      9 I said I am not going to put my nursing license on the      10 line for anybody.</p> <p>11 And they said no, no. We're just saying      12 that she tried to sign off on this condition and she      13 knows that he does not qualify for it.</p> <p>14 I said why are you in the records. Crystal      15 stopped and asked. And I said why are you in the      16 records? And they said we're not in the records. I      17 said you are -- you are. You are in the records if      18 you're able to tell me that this man has a condition.      19 I don't know Barry. I said Barry was not here when I      20 started working here. I said all I know is this man      21 on the blog that keeps talking about me and I have no</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 said stop using Sonya's name. She's no longer here.      2 We have to be accountable for what we're being      3 accountable for, and I said, I don't know if our staff      4 is telling Barry these different things about us or      5 you know and I went and put it all on Sonya.</p> <p>6 I had a staff. Bertha Villatoro [ph],      7 that's the one that has a romantic relationship with      8 Mr. Jackson as well as Tonya Billups and Kiara      9 Richardson, and Jackie Wilson; they all stated that      10 Sonya and Barry were personal friends. They came to      11 my office. And when they was telling me why Barry was      12 posting about me, they said you have to realize that      13 he has a close relationship with Sonya.</p> <p>14 And I said, well, what does that have to do      15 with anything. Sonya is no longer here. And they      16 said she's trying to cover up and get back in the      17 records because on the life insurance policy, she --      18 Barry has a condition, and I, you know -- other people      19 -- I know we took oaths, but you know, I'm a nurse.      20 So you know I've got to protect my license and that's      21 why this is so strong to me.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 -- I don't understand why. I said please do not do      2 this on -- do not go back in his records. And that      3 was like -- they just walked away.</p> <p>4 But the thing about it is, just don't take      5 my word for it. It was a -- everybody -- you can      6 interview every single person in the office. They      7 will tell you the exact single thing that I'm saying.</p> <p>8 Q You gave me a lot to unpack.</p> <p>9 A I know. I'm sorry.</p> <p>10 Q No, that's fine. All right.</p> <p>11 At THW, who did you raise concerns with      12 about potentially unauthorized access of Mr. Hobson's      13 records?</p> <p>14 A I told Mr. Jackson about it.</p> <p>15 Q Raymond Jackson.</p> <p>16 A Yes. I told -- and I told him about it      17 throughout. Because at one time too -- and I can give      18 you the exact day as well. It's one day -- so I      19 brought [ph] it throughout. But one time in      20 particular where it just started coming back up was      21 one day we had open enrollment. We had open</p>

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1        And I'm going, to be honest, the way -- we 2    was scared. It was -- you know, I know this has 3    nothing to do with it, but we was scared at some of 4    the things that was happening. We had someone to make 5    an -- with an A and an X on everybody's door in the 6    office. We had someone at my -- Bertha came in and 7    she told me that someone told her that she and I 8    needed to make sure that we are escorted out to our 9    car. She said that. And I said why? I had been 10   staying here late all night long, you know, why do I 11   need to be escorted out to my car? She said somebody 12   is concerned. She wouldn't tell me who this somebody 13   was, but she said somebody is concerned about my 14   safety.		1        Q   Did you ever send an email to him about 2    that? 3        A   No, I did not. 4        As a nurse -- because number one as a nurse, 5    I didn't want to put that in writing. I did not -- I 6    just told them to stop it and I did not want to put 7    that in writing because of everything that was going 8    on. No, I did not because he's the secretary of the 9    board too, you know. And so I was like -- and I 10   didn't know the connection. I did not know any of 11   this connection or anything until later on I found out 12   the connection.	
15        She went on to tell Dwayne Johnson, who is 16   our housekeeper. He had wrote a statement because I 17   took it to court when I put a subpoena order against 18   Barry. She went on to say that -- to Dwayne she said 19   please make sure you protect Ms. Jackson because 20   someone said that you know she needs to be escorted to 21   her car.		13        Q   When you say the "connection," are you 14   talking about the relationship between Mr. Raymond 15   Jackson and Bertha Villatoro? 16        A   So it was a rumor, but I really found out 17   about the relationship right there in March, you know. 18   It was rumored that they was together, but in March -- 19   and Sonya told me on my first day. And I was like I 20   don't know because I never would see them together, 21   but then in March, I started really seeing them	
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1        I have been there since December, and this 2    is March. I go to my car that same day, somebody is 3    at my car crouching down at my car the day she tells 4    me. And Dwayne is there. So you know I'm like 5    Dwayne. I have been to my car a million times. You 6    don't have to, you know, protect me. As soon as he 7    goes back in, all I can do is scream his name. So 8    this fear was instilled in me. This fear was 9    instilled in the CFO. This fear was instilled in all 10   of our staff. And the people who was there, all they 11   would say is Barry or Sonya. So that fear was 12   instilled in me. I was scared.  13        And people will tell you and they have told 14   Barry, I guess, that we were truly scared of what was 15   going on from what was said to us, you know, said to 16   us. And the things that was happening.		1        together. And that's when Mr. Jackson confirmed the 2    relationship as well as Bertha confirmed their 3    romantic relationship. 4        Q   In Exhibit 2, can you take this pen and 5    circle Bertha Villatoro? And then can you -- yeah and 6    do an arrow and write her name out there. 7        MR. STAFFORD: And let the record 8    reflect that Ms. Jackson circled Ms. Bertha Villatoro 9    and has put her name next to -- to her. 10   BY MR. STAFFORD: 11        Q   You told Mr. Jackson in March of 2022 12   someone -- did you say explicitly Bertha Villatoro was 13   unauthorized -- 14        A   I said -- I said -- 15        Q   One second. One second. 16        When you spoke to Mr. Jackson in March of 17   2022, did you explicitly say Bertha Villatoro is 18   accessing Mr. Hobson's records without authorization? 19        A   Yes, I did. 20        Q   Okay. Who else was present when you told 21   him that?	

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<p>1 I don't know but normally we don't because, you know, 2 of the legal implications around the executive 3 session.</p> <p>4 Q Was there any investigation to your 5 knowledge into the unauthorized access of Mr. Hobson's 6 records?</p> <p>7 A Well, the board of trustees stated that they 8 was going to do an investigation into the chaotic 9 environment and that's what -- because when I put 10 everything out there in writing, that's what led up to 11 my termination on March 7th of this year.</p> <p>12 But to date, I don't think the investigation 13 has been concluded. And I don't want to say any 14 hearsay that I heard so.</p> <p>15 Q Understood. At any point in time, did 16 Bertha Villatoro admit that she accessed Mr. Hobson's 17 records?</p> <p>18 A Oh, she has the form, yeah. She said that 19 she went into the form but she stated that the reason 20 why they went into it is because they wanted to show 21 that Sonya, who was the executive director before me,</p>	<p>1 Q And so I'm trying to draw an analogy because 2 again I'm not in the healthcare space like you've 3 been, but I want to understand.</p> <p>4 THW, are you all sort of like the CareFirst 5 where you help sort of get all the information 6 together and figure out who's eligible for certain 7 coverages and then work with a CareFirst to get that 8 coverage? What exactly do you do?</p> <p>9 A We're a third-party administrator. So 10 basically, although we have CareFirst, we have Kaiser 11 and we have Cigna. We administer the plan. So we 12 stand in as an insurer, so we're considered -- we are 13 a benefits -- a health and welfare plan. We do 14 administer benefits.</p> <p>15 Q Okay. We talked about the discussion 16 briefly you had with Mr. Jackson in March of 2022. 17 How long did that discussion last?</p> <p>18 A I do not recall.</p> <p>19 Q The subsequent discussions you've had with 20 Mr. Jackson about unauthorized access of Mr. Hobson's 21 records, how long did those discussions last on</p>
<p>1 was doing something that she was not supposed to do. 2 Oh, yes.</p> <p>3 Q Did Bertha Villatoro ever mention the exact 4 condition that she found out Mr. Hobson had?</p> <p>5 A Yes, HIV.</p> <p>6 Q All right. Let me ask you this because I 7 want to understand a little bit more about what 8 information TEHW has.</p> <p>9 Does THW have medical records of the 10 employees that are part of the Local 689 Union?</p> <p>11 A Not necessarily medical records, but what we 12 have is if they completed an application and it is 13 considered a medical record. It is considered 14 HIPAA-protected information. We have forms. And so 15 that's what we have there.</p> <p>16 If they have short-term disability or 17 long-term disability, we do have it. The ICD 9 codes 18 or 10 codes that fit that, so we will have that 19 information.</p> <p>20 Q You previously worked at CareFirst.</p> <p>21 A Yes.</p>	<p>1 average, do you know?</p> <p>2 A On average and I honestly do not recall, but 3 I mean, because we were talking about so many 4 different things pertaining to everything, so I would 5 say if we were just talking about Mr. Jackson -- Mr. 6 Barry probably like three minutes, two -- you know 7 four minutes, five. I really don't recall. And I 8 don't want to go on record saying a time period and 9 it's not that.</p> <p>10 Q Understood. Walk me through what Mr. 11 Jackson said during those meetings about again solely 12 about Mr. Hobson and folks' unauthorized access of his 13 information if you can recall.</p> <p>14 A No, I can recall. So one of the things that 15 really concerned me about when I told Mr. Jackson 16 about it -- I also told Mr. Jackson about what -- it's 17 because when the staff came to me -- one time in 18 particular when Bertha came to me about Sonya doing 19 this too -- at Barry's records.</p> <p>20 She also -- they also -- Kiara Richardson 21 also came to me to tell me about another employee, who</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 we had rehired, Brandon, coming to get reemployed.</p> <p>2 And so Kiara was saying, you know, because</p> <p>3 Kiara was one of the ones that had a restraining order</p> <p>4 out on Barry as well, she was saying that Brandon --</p> <p>5 Barry was asking Brandon for his private parts or</p> <p>6 something, so unprofessional.</p> <p>7 So when I told Mr. Jackson about it, Mr.</p> <p>8 Jackson wanted to know -- he was like -- he wanted to</p> <p>9 talk to Kiara because he wanted to talk to Brandon</p> <p>10 because he was trying to get that information so he</p> <p>11 could show it and present it to Barry's husband.</p> <p>12 So when I told him I said we can't do this,</p> <p>13 like, if we're going to fight Barry, let's fight Barry</p> <p>14 fair and square. I was like I will take Barry to</p> <p>15 court and I'm going to put a restraining order out on</p> <p>16 him.</p> <p>17 And Mr. Jackson even told me, he said, I</p> <p>18 don't think you're going to win. Barry is a very</p> <p>19 smart person. You better know what you're doing when</p> <p>20 you taking him to court.</p> <p>21 In my mind, because everything was happening</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 is this man, you know, doing this, and he said because</p> <p>2 I terminated him. But he said he was acting on behalf</p> <p>3 of him versus being, you know, the chief of staff.</p> <p>4 Q Got it. So you said Mr. Jackson was saying</p> <p>5 that Mr. Hobson was acting outside of his power --</p> <p>6 A Yes.</p> <p>7 Q -- and authority.</p> <p>8 A As if he had the power.</p> <p>9 Q Did he ever give any other reason why he</p> <p>10 terminated Mr. Hobson?</p> <p>11 A No, he did not.</p> <p>12 Q Going back to the records that THW has</p> <p>13 applications shall we say.</p> <p>14 A Mm-hmm.</p> <p>15 Q Are those stored electronically?</p> <p>16 A Well, they are not. And we was trying to</p> <p>17 scan them in to be -- they are. They're supposed to</p> <p>18 be scanned electronically, but we were actually going</p> <p>19 through a process and making sure everything was</p> <p>20 scanned into our system. We have Vasion [ph] system</p> <p>21 and we have Decusoft.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 to me, there was no way in my mind that I felt we</p> <p>2 would ever lose because of everything that had been</p> <p>3 planted that you know this is this man doing all this.</p> <p>4 I didn't want to do that -- stuff. First of all, I'm</p> <p>5 a nurse. And my thing -- I'm a nurse. I'm a mother</p> <p>6 of three. I set an example for my kids. And I'm a</p> <p>7 steward of French George's County and I don't want to</p> <p>8 do anything outside of that character.</p> <p>9 And so I was not going to get involved in</p> <p>10 none of that nonsense because I'm a professional. I'm</p> <p>11 a mother and I was not going to deal with that.</p> <p>12 Q During your discussions with Mr. Jackson</p> <p>13 about Mr. Hobson, did Mr. Jackson ever say why he</p> <p>14 terminated Mr. Hobson?</p> <p>15 A He said that Mr. Hobson they said that he</p> <p>16 had a man crush on him. He also stated that Mr.</p> <p>17 Hopkins [sic] was starting to act as if -- because he</p> <p>18 had a lot of power, he was acting, you know, outside</p> <p>19 his power. That's what he stated that you know he</p> <p>20 turned [ph] and that's why he terminated.</p> <p>21 I didn't know who he was. I was like, why</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 They were supposed to be all scanned. I</p> <p>2 never accessed Barry's records. I never looked at</p> <p>3 them, so I can't tell you Barry's records, but</p> <p>4 everybody -- the process is everybody's record is</p> <p>5 supposed to be scanned into Decusoft as well as Vasion</p> <p>6 which is our document repository and they have a file</p> <p>7 room.</p> <p>8 We were breaking down the file room because too</p> <p>9 many people -- it was accessible to everyone and it's</p> <p>10 against HIPAA code now to have paper records. If you</p> <p>11 know anything about healthcare, they're eliminating</p> <p>12 paper records.</p> <p>13 So we was trying to bring our organization</p> <p>14 up to date to meet HIPAA guidelines and get rid of the</p> <p>15 paper -- all the paper charts.</p> <p>16 Q Okay. You mentioned two things: Decusoft</p> <p>17 and Vasion.</p> <p>18 A Vasion.</p> <p>19 Q Can you spell Vasion?</p> <p>20 A V-A-S-I-O-N. And they used to be called</p> <p>21 Maxx Vault, M-A-X-X V-A-U-L-T.</p>